Philosophical Transactions

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I. *A Letter to Dr* John Wright, F. Col. Phyſ. Lond. *to Mr* Wm Cowper, F. R. S. *concerning the Cure of an Apoſtemation of the Lungs.*

SIR,

ACcording to your deſire, I ſend you the Caſe of Mrs *Jane Terry*, Niece to Mr *Fowkes* in *Curſitors-Ally*, near *Lincolns-Inn*, and thank you for your aſſiſtance in her Cure, to which your extraordinary skill in your Profeſſion very much contributed. I doubt not but an account of her, from the firſt time I was concerned with her, will be acceptable to you. I knew her ſome time before ſhe fell ill of the Small Pox, which was in *May* 1701. She was about 18 years old, of a freſh Complexion, and pretty fleſhy. Her Relations apprehending ſhe might have the Small Pox, removed her to a Nurſes Houſe, where ſhe had the diſtinct ſort very kindly, her Caſe proceeded ſo very well (as they conceived) that no Phyſician was called to her, till they began to ſhell, only for ſome days before ſhe had a little difficulty in her breathing, which gradually increaſed till ſhe began to raiſe Blood, which was about the 7th day from their firſt appearing. This raiſing of Blood was accompanied with theſe circumſtances; it had increas'd every day, for 3 days before I ſaw her, ſhe cough'd and brought up a Viſcous Phlegm, ſuch as our Patients Vomit when their Stomachs are very foul; only, as meer Phelgm is white, this was all of it as red as Blood, it was not ſtreak'd with Blood, or had a mixture of white Phlegm with it, but was ſo deeply colour'd, that it ſeem'd to be all Blood, only it would not flow as

Blood

Blood does whilſt it is hot; nor did it coagulate as Blood does when it is cold, but hung from the Baſons when it was pour'd out, as Vomited Phlegm does; and in this it differ'd from all the Bloody Expectorations I have ſeen, excepting Mr *Jones* at *Myn Heer Meyſters*'s in *Kenſington*, who Cough'd the ſame Bloody colour'd Pituita, but in much leſs quantity, for Mrs *Terry* rais'd above a Pint in 24 hours, for ſome days, and tho a leſs yet a conſiderable quantity afterwards; Mrs *Terry*'s afforded a very ſtrong ſmell, but Mr *Jones*'s had no Odour. After ſome weeks ſhe recover'd, regain'd her Fleſh, which was waſted in her illneſs; the Menſes return'd, and ſhe continued very well from *July* till near *Chriſtmas*.

In *January* I was carried to ſee her at Mr *Wooleſton*'s, the Queens-head Tavern at *Queen-hithe*, and ſhe gave this account of her ſelf.

That about 3 weeks before *Chriſtmas* ſhe perceiv'd her ſelf a little ſhort breath'd, which increas'd daily, with a fullneſs and weight in her Left ſide, that ſhe lay well on the Left ſide, but when ſhe turn'd to lye on her Right, ſhe felt as if a weight fell from the Left to the Right ſide, which gave her a ſhortneſs of Breath and made her Cough: Thus it continued increaſing till *Chriſtmas*, when ſhe began to raiſe a conſiderable quantity of ſtrong ſtinking Pus; ſhe ſaid ſhe eat her Victuals well enough all this time, and was not Feveriſh. At firſt ſhe was under the care of another Phyſician, who told her Relations when they deſired his judgment of the Diſeaſe, and its event, That it was an Ulcer in her Lungs, and he believ'd incurable, upon which they again committed her to my care. When I ſaw her, which was towards the middle of *January* 1701, ſhe raiſed a conſiderable quantity, and often of ſtinking offenſive Pus, which was as fluid as the Pus of other parts; her Fleſh was a little abated, but ſhe was at no time Feveriſh, ſhe eat and ſlept pretty well, and had the Catamenia duly. I preſcribed ſuch Medicines, as abated that Purulent Expectoration ſeveral times, and ſhe often gave me hopes of her Recovery, ſhe

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continuing to have the Menſes regularly, and being ſtill free from an Hectick, but upon every little Cold ſhe again raiſed that fetid Pus in a conſiderable quantity. She generally continued pretty free from Coughing ſeveral hours together, till ſhe perceiv'd ſomething of a fullneſs in her Breaſt, which would oblige her to Cough, and after ſhe had once began to raiſe ſhe could not ceaſe, till ſhe had brought up two Spoonfuls or more of that fetid Pus. This ſhe did chiefly in the Morning, Afternoon and at Night; I did apprehend ſhe had an abſceſs in the Left Lobe of her Lungs, and made her lye upon the Bed, with her head reaching to the Chamber Floor, leaning upon her Left Arm. In this poſture ſhe could at any time, after a little Cough, ſet the Pus a running out of her Mouth, as you have ſeen ſeveral times, till the whole which was therein contain'd was diſcharg'd.

Then ſhe would get up, and ſeem to be as well as another perſon, till it was almoſt fill'd again. In the beginning of *May* laſt, thoſe Excellent Phyſicians, Dr *Torleſſe* and Dr *Pitts* favour'd me with their kind aſſiſtance. They ſaw her lye in the poſture I have deſcrib'd, and ſaw more than 2 ſpoonfuls of ſtinking Pus or Corruption run out of her Mouth, after a little Coughing. This made it ſo apparent that there was an Ulcer in her Lungs, that they immediately approv'd of what I had before propoſed to her and her Relations, of the neceſſity of making an Apertition in her ſide, where we could apprehend the Lungs grew to it for that ſeem'd unqueſtionable, from the poſture of diſcharging it; and ſome little pain ſhe felt in her ſide. The great opinion her Relations juſtly entertain'd of theſe Gentlemen, being not only Men of great Learning, particularly in their own Profeſſion, but alſo of many years Practice, Dr *Torleſſe* having been almoſt 30 years ſince, choſen Phyſician to St *Thomas*'s Hoſpital, and Dr *Pitts* to St *Bartholomews* ſeveral years ago, made them readily conſent to what was propoſed, and deſire your aſſiſtance,

aſſiſtance, being no Strangers to your great Ability both in Anatomy and Surgery: About a week before, the Pus had begun again to encreaſe, and the day before theſe Gentlemen ſaw her ſhe was taken in the afternoon with a chilneſs, after which her Pulſe became a little quicker, and ſhe a little Feveriſh, as I believe you remember ſhe was, when you applied the Cauſtick; this Feveriſh ſtate encreaſed every day, and after ſome days a Raſh appear'd, which laſted about 14 days before it was quite got off, and left her in a Hectick, with redneſs in her Cheeks towards evening, Night Sweats, continual Looſeneſs, extreme waſting of her Fleſh, and at length a ſwelling in her Legs, though ſhe kept her Bed. I doubt not but you remember that we felt ſome little knots betwixt the ſeventh and eighth Rib, which with other circumſtances made us conclude the adheſion was in that part, and would have laid the Cauſtick there, but that it would certainly have ſpread to the Glands of her Left Breaſt, which made us lay it between the ſixth and ſeventh Rib, (*ſurſum numerando*); As ſoon as you could you took it off, and with your Knife gently paſs'd through into the Cavity of her Breaſt, whence iſſued a Bloody iſh Water, but no Pus; by bending your Probe you found the adheſion reach to the lower edge of the 7th Rib, and before the Eſchar was ſeparated, the Pus began to flow at every dreſſing, and ſo continued, gradually abating, till the Ulcer was cured; during which a part of the inſide of that Rib, above an inch long exfoliated, and after that another leſſer piece of the outſide of the Rib. Towards the latter end of the Cure, ſhe complained very much of a pain at the *Cartilago Enſiformis*, ſo great that ſhe ſometimes pluck'd out the hollow Tent, which we conceiv'd was occaſioned by its preſſing upon the Nerve, during the firſt 7 or 8 days of her Raſh, ſhe rais'd very little, if any, of that Pus, nor did it diſcharge its ſelf then by the Oriſice, nor was there a collection of it in her Breaſt, which made me apprehend, that the Fever did ſo alter the ſtate of her Blood, as not to per-

mit it, to ſeparate its impurities into the Abſceſs. I muſt obſerve to you, that for ſix days before the Fever began, ſhe had the *Cartemenia* very orderly; by *Auguſt* ſhe was cured, her ſide heal'd up, and would not endure it to be converted into an Iſſue; by *October* ſhe recovered her Fleſh, and the *Catamenia* return'd, which had been wanting ever ſince *May*, and now, as you lately ſaw her, ſhe is plump, fleſhy, clear and freſh Complexioned, has little or no Cough, and no fœtid or tabid expectoration, and ſeems, and I believe is perfectly cured, having for many months taken no Medicine.

There are ſeveral circumſtances in this Caſe, which I cannot forbear making ſome remarks on.

That there was an Ulcer in the Lungs, and that it has admitted of a Cure, contrary to the general opinion of Phyſicians. That this Ulcer did contain at leaſt 2 ſpoonfuls, and muſt have been as large as a Hens Egg. That this Abſceſs aroſe from a collection, with an indiſcenable (if any) Fever, and ſo continued from *Chriſtmas* to about the 10th of *May*. The tender Membranous or Veſiculary compoſition of the Lungs ſeem to juſtifie this opinion, that it is almoſt impoſſible for them to heal, when there is a conſiderable diminution of them, the continual and indiſpenſable neceſſity of their motion, very much hindring the coalition of the *Veſiculæ*.

Several parts of the Body afford a proper cement to unite and repair them, when hurt or diminiſh'd. Carious and broken Bones ſend forth a *Callus*; when the Skin is conſum'd by Ulcers or Burns the parts afford a Cicatrix, which pretty well ſupplies the defect of the Skin. The Lungs ſeparate a viſcid Pituita, which will be expanded into Fleaks like a Membrane; Mr *Stringer*, *Sarah Deeping* and ſome other Patients have brought up great quantities of them, and a little Boy at Mr *Tolley*'s in *Kenſington*, Cough'd up ſeveral Pipes, form'd exactly like the *Bronchia*, and its divarications, and at firſt view ſeem'd to be the internal Membrane. Mr *Buſiere* mentions this inſtance in the Philoſophi-

ſophical Tranſactions, *April* 1700. His haſte would not permit him to obſerve the Caſe ſo exactly as it deſerv'd: this Child two years before, had an Ulcer in the Right ſide of his Lungs, and they adhered to his Back, when I ſeparated them I found a Cicatrix near three inches long, but very little (if any) defect in his Lungs, I am of opinion this Pituita or Mucus doth ſerve to re-unite the parts of the Lungs when there is a ſolution by an Ulcer.

Conſumptive Perſons generally flatter themſelves, that they have no Ulcer in their Lungs, becauſe they do not feel a ſoreneſs, as in the Ulcers of other parts. This opinion keeps them from making a timely application to Phyſicians, whilſt they might recieve a ſpeedy and eaſie Cure. When you touch'd the Sound or Ulcerated parts of her Lungs with your Probe or Finger, ſhe diſcovered no ſenſe of feeling you, which may confirm the opinion of Phyſicians and Anatomiſts, that the Lungs have little if any ſenſation. When you touch'd her Heart with your Finger, tho I believe for not the twentieth part of a minute, ſhe grew very much diſordered, pale and ready to faint, which ſhows Nature cannot ſuffer the leaſt alteration in its pulſation, without great prejudice and inconveniency.

It is the opinion of ſome Phyſicians, that the Fever which attends Conſumptive Patients, ariſes from ſome Particles of the Pus, which being receiv'd into the Blood, and circulating with it, cauſe that effervеſcence which we call an Hectick. This Patient had no Fever from *Chriſtmas* to *May*, and then unhappily came a continued Fever, with a Raſh, which left a Febricitation every afternoon, with thoſe ſymptoms which attend a Hectick.

I have obſerved for many years, that if I could preſerve my Conſumptive Patients from that Hectick Fever, or relieved them who already labour'd under it, I could cure them, tho their expectoration was very plentiful and foul. I doubt not, but if ſome of our faculty applied themſelves more particularly to the cure of Conſumptions, ſo many

thouſands would not dye of it yearly in this City, as appears by the Bills of Mortality.

I do not doubt but ſome part of her Lungs do adhere to her ſide, and it's probable a little part of them do not receive the Air in inſpiration, but I believe that defect is very inconſiderable, becauſe ſhe can run up Stairs, and is no more diſordered in her Breath than moſt other People.

The eaſy diſcharge of the Pus, by her lying down in that poſture, did undoubtedly very much preſerve her Lungs, and prevented its breaking through the Abſceſs, into the Cavity of her Breaſt, and putrifying her Lungs to a greater degree. *Pus*, generat *Pus* is a noted Aphoriſm, and the Air Bladders of the Lungs are ſo very tender, that they muſt have yielded to the preſſure of the Pus, had it lain long in the Abſceſs, and been only diſcharg'd by violent Coughing; by lying in a proper poſture. Sir *Tho. Proby*, *Sarah Deeping*, and other perſons have prevented a greater ſolution in their Lungs, and either prolong'd their Lives many years, or recovered their Healths by proper Medicines.

This and other inſtances, make me eaſily concur with ſome Phyſicians in an Opinion, that in ſome Families the Lungs have originally a more tender Conſtitution than in others. Mrs *Terry*'s Aunts are ſubject to great Coughs and Ptyſick. Her Aunt *Fowkes* little Daughter of about 7 years old, having a little Fever, with ſome ſymptoms of the Small Pox, but a great difficulty in Breathing, I adviſed her Bleeding at the Arm, but ſhe was ſo fat you could not find a Vein that night; next day the Small Pox appear'd, which a little eas'd her Lungs, upon the ſixth night after, ſhe rais'd at ſeveral times about 7 or 8 Ounces of clear Blood, by violent Coughing: I was ſent for, and drew away about 6 Ounces of Blood by Leeches, which totally reliev'd her Breath, and ſtopp'd the raiſing Blood. This inſtance I mention being ſo like Mrs *Terry*'s, to confirm what I ſaid before, and to evince that ſo great loſs of Blood will not hinder the regular proceeding of the Small-Pox, which ſhe went through very

very orderly, and recovered perfectly. I have obſerv'd the ſame effect in other Patients, in whom Bleeding after eruption was indiſpenſable.

The continual motion of the Breaſt in Breathing, made the Cauſtick ſpread farther than it was deſign'd, or could be prevented; I have prevail'd with ſome Patients to yield to an apertion by Launcet, which I take (in ſome Caſes) to be the better way; that little Blood which may poſſibly get into the Cavity of the Breaſt, is eaſily thrown out again by the Lungs in inſpiration, as you may remember ſhe did the injection every time you uſed it.

You cannot forget how after the *Pus* began to flow at the Orifice, it leſſen'd the raiſing it at her Mouth, and in no long time, the Purulent Expectoration totally ceas'd.

SIR,

This Letter already exceeds its proper bounds, therefore I will omit ſome other remarks of leſs conſequence, *viz.* on the Bloody Colour'd *Pituita*, the Fetid Odor of the *Pus*, and the Raſh Fever which came without any manifeſt cauſe, and only Subſcribe my ſelf,

Your moſt Affectionate Friend

And Servant,

Jo. Wright.